

PLAN-IT!

NEVADA
DOT

Quarterly Newsletter of the Planning Division

NDOT Research

1st Quarter, 2011



From left to right, Gizachew Zewdu, Ken Chambers, Sena Loyd, Roma Clewell, and Manjunathan Kumar

The NDOT Research Section is comprised of the following programs; Research Program, Product Evaluation Program and Research Library.

Over the course of the last two years, NDOT Product Evaluation has saved NDOT over \$1,000,000. (See “By The Numbers.” on pg. 2)

The Research Section looks for ways to improve NDOT’s programs through a variety of means including; research, product evaluation, peer state review, and many others. Once these new strategies have been identified, they are discussed with the Research team and then forwarded onto the NDOT Front Office for their approval.

The Research Section also conducts small-scale research with NDOT staff. The section is constantly searching for innovative concepts, products, and processes to improve NDOT’s transportation infrastructure. The Research Section is willing to assist NDOT staff to evaluate any product or research any transportation related topic that is needed to help carry out NDOT’s Mission, Vision, Core Values and Goals.

For information about the NDOT Research Section, please contact Ken Chambers, Research Chief, at 775-888-7220 or kchambers@dot.state.nv.us.

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Brian Sandoval
Governor

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Research Program

Annually the Research Program solicits research proposals based on prioritized problem statements from all NDOT Divisions. Once the proposals have been received, they are organized by topic and reviewed by a committee. The Research Section then writes agreements for the selected proposals with the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR); the T2 Center at UNR; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV); the University Transportation Center at UNLV; as well as consultants, and oversees the progress of the projects.

Key research projects completed over the last five years include; Effectiveness of the Wildlife Overcrossing, Corrosion of Mechanically Stabilized Earth Walls, Red Light Running and the Evaluation of Graffiti Countermeasures.

For additional information, please contact Manju Kumar, Research Coordinator, at (775) 888-7803 or mkumar@dot.state.nv.us.

Product Evaluation Program

The Product Evaluation Program coordinates the development of the Qualified Product List (QPL). This list contains a catalog of pre-approved products to use on NDOT facilities and contracts. The QPL includes everything from concrete stain to flexible guard rail posts and everything in between. Oversight of the Product Evaluation Program including the development of the QPL, is cooperatively developed by the 15-member NDOT Product Evaluation Committee which meets quarterly.

The Product Evaluation Coordinator is also responsible to coordinate and document results of product evaluations along with field tests. Product evaluation can be requested by filling out the form available on the “Forms” section of www.nevadadot.com.

Field tests are conducted to evaluate new products ensuring that the product works well under the unique climates of Nevada. Products are tested in a variety of environments and on different surfaces. Outside agencies along with NDOT Divisions may request a field test by filling out the form available on the “Forms” link on the doing business section of www.nevadadot.com.

For additional information regarding the Product Evaluation Program, please contact Roma Clewell, Product Evaluation Coordinator, at (775) 888-7894 or rclewell@dot.state.nv.us.

NDOT Product Evaluation “By the Numbers”

Saved NDOT

\$529,000 Anti Graffiti Abatement

\$510,000 Concrete Stain Failure

\$15,000 Guardrail Reflective Striping

“NDOT Planning: Success Starts with Us.”

NDOT Planning's Image Statement

Research Library

The Research Library acquires, catalogues and loans books, articles, reports, and papers to any NDOT employee in the State. This is a great resource for employees to research work-related topics, grow professionally, and to keep up-to-date on the latest advancements in the transportation field. Employees are encouraged to utilize this tremendous wealth of knowledge.

The library is open Monday through Friday from 8-5. Library resources including books, reports, articles, and papers, can be mailed to any NDOT employee in the state.

For additional information please contact Sena Loyd, Research Librarian, at 775-888-7895 or sloyd@dot.state.nv.us

Safety Engineering



Chuck Reider

The Safety Engineering Section joined NDOT Planning in mid-January 2011. Welcome to NDOT Planning - we are happy to have you! The section is responsible to identify, analyze, and investigate projects and improvements that will enhance the safety of the traveling public through the Nevada Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and is an integral component of Nevada's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP).

The SHSP is a statewide plan that incorporates safety strategies from all four Traffic Safety E's (Education, Engineering, Enforcement and Emergency Management Services) to strive towards the SHSP goal of Zero Fatalities.

Safety Engineering creates engineering solutions that have a high potential for improving safety. This can be on any public road (both on and off NDOT's transportation system.) This is accomplished through data analysis of high crash locations, safety audits along with additional engineering analysis.

This section, as a part of the SHSP, complements the Department of Public Safety's behavioral program by providing additional funding for several campaigns such as: Over the Legal Limit Under Arrest, Click it or Ticket, Prevent All Crashes Everyday (PACE), Latino Outreach and Education, funding free bus rides in Washoe County on New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Day, and DMV quick tips brochures.

For more information please contact Chuck Reider, P.E., Chief Safety Engineer, at 775-888-7335 or creider@dot.state.nv.us.



Meet the Planner

Yathi Yatheepan,
Performance Analysis Section



Yathi Yatheepan

Yathi originally grew up in Sri Lanka. He moved to Reno 10 years ago to pursue a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering at UNR. He earned his degree and began working for NDOT a little more than two years ago. Prior to that time he worked with a consulting firm doing pavement analysis.

He is a Registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) in the states of Nevada and California. In his professional life, Yathi has enjoyed wisdom from several mentors.

He enjoys reading professional journals and publications by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He also reads Consumer Reports.

Yathi lists traveling, bicycling and hiking among his hobbies. He recently completed a 5,400-mile road trip to Dallas, Texas. His goal was to visit many places that he had wanted to see for many years. Along the way he was able to stop at the Grand Canyon Sky Walk, Lake Powell/Glen Canyon, Four Corners, Taos, Pueblo, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, White Sands National Park, Carlsbad Caverns, El Paso, San Antonio, Austin, Petrified Forest National Park, and Meteor Crater.



Save the Date!

**2011 Bike and
Pedestrian Conference
May 24, 2011 Reno**

Key Dates

April 4, 2011	State Transportation Board Meeting
April 4, 2011	Statewide Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (STTAC) Meeting
April 15, 2011	NDOT Transit Grant Application Deadline (see "Forms" section of www.nevadadot.com)
April 27, 2011	Nevada Moves Day
May 2-6, 2011	AASHTO Spring Meeting in Las Vegas
May 8-12, 2011	TRB National Transportation Planning Applications Conference, Reno
May 16-20 2011	Bike to Work Week
May 23, 2011	Nevada Bicycle Advisory Board Meeting
June 14, 2011	Product Evaluation Committee Meeting



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